

## NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Oats make an excellent ration for laying hens.

Late in the fall is a good time to hatch spring chicks in some sections.

Shorts are more economical feed for sows and growing pigs than corn.

The deepest mudhole and steepest hill measure the real distance to market.

Turkeys will soon become weak and subject to disease where inbreeding is practiced.

Where there is plenty of skimmed milk, beef scraps for hens need not be bought.

When the hogs fail to gain at least a pound a day it is time to say good-bye to them.

Get your cows started right for the coming cold weather and they will do well all winter.

Build a warm, dry and otherwise comfortable room for the calves for the cold-weather.

When selecting a cow for the dairy look and see if the eye of the animal is large and full.

This is the time of the year when dairy cattle require better care and more liberal feeding.

To thoroughly clean milk utensils they first should be rinsed with cold water, to remove all particles of milk.

The successful feeding of lambs depends largely on their being offered great variety of food while in the yards.

Peach trees can be planted any time between last and first frost; the earlier in the winter they are planted the better.

Keep all the rotten fruit well cleaned up around the orchard, as these constitute the winter quarters of numerous orchard pests.

If all of the garden space is to grow profitable crops, no large trees must stand closer than thirty to fifty feet from the garden fence.

The calf that is expected to develop into a strong and profitable cow should be given all the chance possible during its early period of growth.

The best results are usually obtained from the work that is systematized and most carefully planned. This is not always the hardest work on the farm.

The best way to stop a hog from eating chickens is to put it on the market as soon as possible, since it will soon lead other hogs into the bad habit.

The best milking pail is the one so constructed that it will reduce to a minimum the amount of dirt falling into the milk during the process of milking.

An old horseman says that the chief cause of colic in horses, or the cause of the largest per cent. of these cases, is brought through long abstinence from water.

Do not neglect to secure a good supply of fine dust for the fowls during the coming winter, while the ground is yet dry and there is dust in the road.

There is much difference in the individuality of cows and their powers to produce milk as there is in men and their powers to perform certain kinds of work.

The profit in a cow comes from the extra amount of milk she will yield over what she ordinarily gives on common pasture or the coarse feeds usually given her.

The poultry raiser who notes his flock carefully, taking into account what they are doing, and capable of doing, ought to know more how to feed and what to feed, than anyone advising at long range.

It is very dangerous to pasture stock on second growth sorghum or Johnson grass, as this year has been dry in many sections and these crops have been grown under unfavorable conditions.

Skim milk is a good food for poultry. The fat has been taken from it and leaves it proportionately rich in protein, which is a very desirable element in poultry food. Use it to mix a mash for the chickens. You may also give them all the milk they will drink.

Winter is coming, batten the cracks

Sour milk is caused by dirt and warmth.

What water is to a person a dust bath is to a hen.

See that your fowls are absolutely free from vermin.

If the feathers are to be sold, ducks must be dry picked.

There is profit in breeding turkeys up to the fifth year.

The value of butter increases as the quality improves.

A good horseman never trots a draft horse, even when he has no load.

Laying hens need from 15 to 25 per cent meat scraps added daily to their mash.

Don't feed hay or other forage, which will raise a dust, before or during milking.

Tainted, musty or mouldy feeds should never be served in the dairy herd rations.

The best market for skim milk on the farm is afforded by good dairy calves and quick growing pigs.

If the cream in the churn foams up and runs over, the churn is too full or the cream is improperly ripened.

Simply because a calf is given her ration of milk each day, it does not signify that she does not need water also.

Cholera and other diseases of swine attack herds which are in poor condition and consequently most susceptible.

If your horse is troubled with indigestion have the animal clipped and its teeth attended to by a veterinarian.

Until recent years the poultry business, especially on the farms, was of so little importance that not much attention was paid to it.

Prune out old canes of raspberries and blackberries and burn them. Thin the hills to three or four shoots. Cultivate, and add some manure to the soil.

The red mites or lice do not stay on the fowls during the daytime, but hide in cracks during the day, sallying forth after dark to seek their prey.

Orchardists who have never used dynamite should be sure to get all possible information from the manufacturers of the explosive before attempting to use it.

If celery is to be brought into the cellar for winter storage cut the top root, lift it from the ground and then with a strong knife cut off the branching roots and most of the earth.

Lousy fowls are necessarily weaker than fowls that are free from lice, and strength and vitality are quite important factors while the fowls are producing their new suit of clothes.

If your fowls have the range of the fields and orchards and can pick up a number of insects and worms daily, you will not need to bother much about the meat supply in the ration.

The raising of poultry on the farm or in conjunction with fruit growing, can be made very profitable with the same kind of management that is devoted to raising good stock or good grain.

Everything should be kept as clean on the little chicks' feeding floors as if it is on the floor of the kitchen. If this is done the little birds will never have gaps or many of the chicken diseases.

If you are feeding clover, remember to cut down the bulk. This is a hearty food and you can't use as much of it as you can of timothy without doing your horse harm.

In filling a silo attention must be given to the outer edges, for when the silage begins to settle there is always a draw away from the wall, leaving an air space that makes the silage spoil.

There is no better germ slayer than an ounce of carbolic acid added to a pail of whitewash. Give the walls and ceiling of the hen house a good coating, working it in rather thick in all cracks and crevices.

There is not a farm in the country where farming is seriously attempted at all where it is necessary to try to raise chickens without decent provision for the safety of the flock and for the convenience of the attendant.

With eggs bringing an average of over 20 cents a dozen and market poultry at 15 cents a pound and over, it is an easy matter to show paper profits that leave most other lines of farming clear round the corner.

The filling of the silo and thus providing a supply of palatable and succulent feed for the stock for the entire year is not only a sign of progress but is an indication that the farmer so doing is producing milk or beef more easily and economically than his neighbors who have no silo.

## DESIRABLE SITE FOR APPLE ORCHARD AND GENERAL CARE

Gentle Eastern or Northeastern Slope Found Excellent in Some Sections—Trees Should be Strong and Vigorous and One or Two Years Old—Thorough Tillage Needed.



A Neglected Apple Tree.

Farmers' bulletin No. 113, United States department of agriculture, is entitled "The Apple and How to Grow It." G. B. Brackett, pomologist, bureau of plant industry, the writer of this bulletin, closes it with the following summary:

1. A gentle eastern or northeastern slope, as a rule, is the most desirable for an orchard site, but this may vary in different sections.

2. Soils such as are found in timber regions afford the best results, but outside of such districts clayey loams having free surface and subsoil drainage are best.

3. Well rotted barnyard manure is the most valuable for apple orchards. The next best fertilizer is crops of red clover grown among the trees and allowed to fall and rot on the ground or turned under and the ground reseeded.

4. Thorough surface tillage is required to obtain the best results in the orchard, and when needing fertility the land should be properly manured before plowing.

5. Trees are more safely set in early spring. They should be strong, vigorous, one or two years old, having a well-developed root system and, at the time of setting, their tops should be cut back to the height at which the main branches for the future top are to be formed. All broken and mutilated roots should be cut back to sound wood. For easy planting, open out a deep furrow with a two-horse plow along the line where the rows are to be made, and cross check at the distance apart at which the trees are to stand. At the crosses level off the ground at the bottom of the furrow to receive the tree with its roots in a natural position, fill in the dirt among

them well and tramp down, leaning the tree slightly to the southwest.

6. Thorough tillage with a cultivator during the growing season and plowing the land each spring, turning it each alternate year toward the trees, are recommended.

7. Prune each year in early spring before the growth starts, removing all cross branches and thinning out where too densely grown, so as to balance the tops and afford free air circulation and admit sunlight to all parts of the tree.

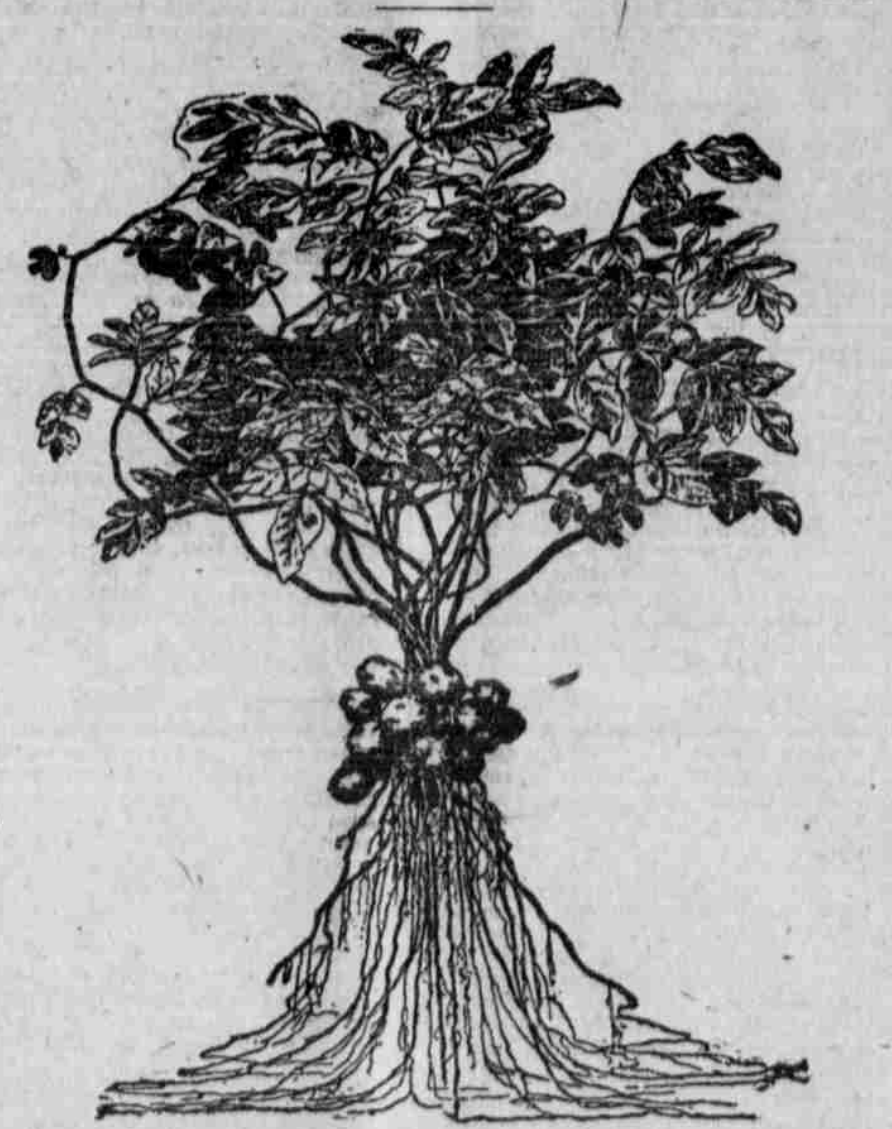
8. All classes, summer, autumn and winter apples, must be carefully picked without loosening the stems from the fruit, handled carefully to avoid bruises or breakage of the skin, and placed under protection from sun and wind until final disposition is made of them. Apples for home use should be stored in some place where the temperature should be kept as low as possible without danger of frost.

9. Summer and autumn sorts, if for market, require an immediate disposition, as they are exceedingly perishable. Winter varieties may be held for a while during a glut in the market and in seasons of a shortage generally. At other times it is a question of good business policy for the producer to consider well the best way of disposing of his crop.

10. Pencils From Cedar Rails.

The old-fashioned cedar rail fences of middle Tennessee now furnish the world's main supply of cedar pencils and it is stated that these fences are the sole remaining source from which to make the best grade of smooth whittling cedar pencils so well known to every schoolboy. These rails bring fabulous prices.

## PREPARATION FOR POTATOES



Compared with corn, the potato is a shallow rooted plant, the greater part of the roots being found in the upper foot of soil. Thorough preparation the previous fall will induce deeper rooting and the formation of tubers at a safe distance below the surface. On the plant illustrated above the tubers have formed close together and near the surface.

## ACROSS THE HEDGE

By CARL JENKINS

Miss June Freeman had been disappointed in going to Europe for the summer. She had been disappointed in going to the country for the season. She had asked a girl chum to visit her for a month, but had been disappointed in that.

On that hot morning Miss June sat on the front veranda of her father's house in a suburban village and shed tears of disappointment. She blamed her father, her mother—business—everybody! The parrot in his cage at the end of the veranda squawked at her, and she shook her fist at him. A big bumble bee came humming around, and she gave him a slap with a magazine she had brought out. The man of all work came dragging fifty feet of garden hose around from the back yard to water the flowers in front.

"John, you needn't do a thing to the old flower-beds! Just let them dry up and blow away. Everything has gone to the dogs anyhow."

John started to drag the hose back, when Miss June got a sudden inspiration and called out:

"You can leave it here. Attach it to the pipe. I may feel like using it myself by and by."

John walked off, and five minutes later the hose was shooting a stream here and there. Along the front fence was a high hedge, and only the hats of male pedestrians could be seen as they passed on the walk. Presently Miss June heard steps approaching and saw a straw hat passing. She elevated the nozzle to play on that hat, and some one jumped and called out:

"Bless my stars, but I'll knock that gardener's head off!"

Miss June was getting even for her various disappointments. The drenched man passed on, and five minutes later he was replaced by another. The second man was more astonished than the first. He was thinking of Niagara Falls as he walked and all of a sudden they hit him. When he had somewhat recovered from his astonishment he called out:

"By gum, you dunderhead in there, if you are not more careful with that hose somebody will break your neck! What are you up to, anyway?"

No answer. Miss June was feeling better in her mind. She let the next two or three men pass, and then caught sight of a silk hat topping the hedge. She could have directed the stream to hit that hat and knock it clear across the street, but she didn't. She directed the shower into the limbs of a shade tree overhanging the walk, and was rewarded by hearing the owner of the hat gasp out:

"The devil, but what does this mean!"

The stream ceased, but the shower-bath had been very fair.

"Say, you boy in there!" called the drenched one.

There was no boy and no reply.

"Boy or man, you had better be careful. If I had you out here your neck might be in danger!"

Miss June shut off the water and took a seat on the veranda and became complacent. At noon when the father came up to lunch he said to John:

"Look here, man, if you can't use that hose in the front yard without drenching pedestrians you'd better let it alone."

"Yes, sir," replied the loyal John, who knew what had happened, but wasn't going to give anybody away.

"You drenched the butcher from head to heel."

"Yes, sir."

"And you drenched a Mr. Folkstone, a young lawyer who is going to set up in his profession here. Mr. Thomas was passing on the outer side of the street and saw it all."

"Yes, sir."

"I can't say but what the lawyer may sue me for damages. They are a risky lot to play games on."

"Yes, sir."

After lunch Miss June slipped John half a dollar and a grateful look and sat down and mused:

"So there's a new lawyer in town, eh? And he's a young man and is swelling around under a plug hat to make folks think he's some pumpkins? I drenched him, and I'm glad of it, and I'll do it again. If I can't swell around Europe no one else shall swell around the United States. He must be a nice specimen of a young man to play the cry-baby just because a few drops of water hit his hat! Sue father for damages will he? Well let him try it on! I know every girl in this town, and if Mr. Folkstone goes to acting too frisky his cake will turn out to be sour dough."

Next morning John was ordered to bring the hose around again. He looked at Miss June doubtfully.

"Oh, you won't lose your job," she replied. "If there is any complaint I'll stand for it."

"You might wet down the butcher's boy, the carpenter and the cooper, but when you come to wet down a party as wears a plug hat it's different. And maybe you heard your father say he was a lawyer and might sue for damages?"

"John, if that young swell passes here this morning he'll run into another summer shower!" said the girl in a determined way.

"Then you are agin him, Miss?"

"I am. He ought to have taken it as an accident or a joke. If you got a little wet would you play the baby act?"

"No, mum, but you see, the suddenness of it must have astonished him."

"And the suddenness of it will astonish him again! I don't know Mr. Folkstone from a bean-pole, but I'm down on him. He's evidently come to town to swell around and be a top-bud on a tree. When he came along yesterday he was—miming like a school-girl, and I hate a sissy man. Get the hose ready and then find something to do at the barn. That plug hat is in for another ducking!"

Perhaps Mr. Folkstone had two silk hats—perhaps he had got the drenched one ironed. At any rate, within half an hour after Miss June was on watch she saw it bobbing along above the hedge again, and once more a stream of water shot into the branches of a tree to come down like April drops.

No threats from Mr. Folkstone this time. He simply opened the gate and walked in, carrying his soaking hat in his hand. He was smiling as he bowed to the astonished girl.

"You—you—" she began, but could not finish. Mr. Folkstone was no swell. He was no cry-baby—no sissy. He was a fine-looking, athletic young man, and his face and voice showed character.

"Excuse me, please," he said with a half-laugh and another bow, "but do I speak to Miss June Freeman?"

"Y—es, sir."

"I have letters of introduction to you from several of your girl friends in Boston, and others to your father from business men. They are a bit damp, and you must excuse it. I had the misfortune to be caught in the late shower!"

Miss June Freeman was called an odd girl. She had done one odd thing in drenching a stranger and believing she disliked him, and now she did another by holding out one hand for the letters and another for a shake and saying:

"I ought to be awfully ashamed of myself, and I am, but I am going to face the music. I beg a thousand pardons for my silly conduct, and if you will call this afternoon I will make further apologies."

He called and perhaps that was the very best way the acquaintance could have come about.

## WORTHY OF HIS REPUTATION

Farmer Willing to Allow Cider to Be Tested, But Only in Way He Approved.

In all glorious New Jersey it is generally admitted there is no cider to equal that of Farmer Marshall. But he is notable for other things besides. It is said that he would very much rather receive than give—in short, that he is a stingy old rascal.

Young Peterson had heard this, but he was a young man who had considerable faith in his own powers of passing on the gentle hint, and to some sportive companions he had boasted that he would get a drink of cider out of the old man without asking for it. As such a thing had never been known to happen in living memory there were plenty of takers and the next day Peterson drove over.

"Morning, farmer!" said he. "Fine orchard you have here."

"Ay," said the farmer.

"They tell me, too, that you have a fine press."

"Ay; 'tis the best in all Jersey."

"Pretty good cider you get, I suppose—eh? But I dare say I've tasted better."

"Not in your born days, Tom"—this to his son—"get an' draw a mug o' cider."

The luscious beverage was brought and with a smile of triumph young Peterson held forth his hand to take it.

But the farmer's hand got there first. He drained the mug and then handed it to the visitor.

"There!" he remarked. "If you think you've ever met the like of that cider, just smell the mug!"

Licking the Wound.

Charles H. Duncan, New York, advances the view that in cases of sepsis, vaccination can be accomplished by administering by mouth to the patient a small amount of the discharge from his own wound. The author cites as an example of nature working by this method the fact that animals lick their wounds and that they never have septic wounds except on the head, where they cannot lick them. Autogenous vaccination by the mouth tends to be curative in all stages of sepsis, but is especially prompt in the earliest stages, when the germs have not become virulent, and in the later stages when the infected area has been well walled off. The author has used this method for two and a half years with good results. He believes it is the simplest, oldest and most natural method of curing wounds.—Medical Record.

Taken Literally.

The sign in front of a Harlem restaurant attracted the eye of a farmer, and he went in. He had a raw, a fry, a stew, a pan roast, a broil, and a steam on toast. When he got through he laid a quarter on the cashier's desk, only to be told that he was shy a dollar and a quarter. "No, by jing," said the farmer. "A quarter's right. Doesn't your sign say, 'Oysters in every style for 25 cents?'"